

Dr. Mellichamp was an ardent lover of nature, with a poetic and artistic spirit, and his letters teem with fine descriptions of the various objects which attracted him in his professional drives about the country. He was wont, as the spring approached, to speak of the exceeding beauty of the young flowers of *Pinus Elliottii*, as they expanded their cones over the trees, crowning their robes of green with a haze of purple. His letters show the keenest sense of the loveliness and delicious warmth of a spring in the pines with flowers opening everywhere, the fragrance of the woods, of jessamine and of magnolias filling the air made vocal with the songs of mocking-birds.

But best of all, he was a man to be loved for his qualities of heart and mind. A magnetic and attractive man, his friends and correspondents cannot forget his ready kindness and words of cheer and will cherish his memory. He was beloved by the poor people of his district who, in a touching way, mourned the loss of their "old doctor" as his body was borne to the grave. As might have been supposed he was intensely southern in his feelings and in his love for his native State. He now rests in her bosom; and the well-known lines, slightly altered, may well be applied to him, "Little he'll reck if they let him sleep on in the grave where a *southern* has laid him."

SHORTER NOTES

PRIMARY VENATION IN CINNAMOMUM. — In discussing the proper generic affinity of *Cinnamomum affine* Lesq., F. H. Knowlton* makes the assertion that "The joining of the secondaries to the midrib at some distance above the base is distinctly a character of *Cinnamomum*, and *all known species possess it.*" The italics are mine.

In view of the variability of leaves in this respect such sweeping statements should be made with great caution. Both Schimper and Lesquereux † in defining the genus particularly mention

* Knowlton. *Flora Montana Form.* U. S. Geol. Surv. Bull. 163 : 43. 1900.

† Schimp. *Pal. Veget.* 2 : 839; and Lesq. *Teil. Fl.* 218.

the triple nerves from the base, and an examination of the published figures of fossil leaves referred to this genus shows several species which have the basal secondaries (lateral primaries) inserted at the base of the midrib* and several additional species in which these secondaries are subbasal in some of the leaves.

An examination of the existing species contained in the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden shows many leaves with basal secondaries in the following species: *Cinnamomum pedatinerviium*, *Javanicum*, *obtusifolium*, *pauciflorum*, *Sieboldi*, *nitidum*, *eucalyptoides*, *albiflorum*, *pedunculatum* and *Zeylanicum*.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1903

This meeting was held at the New York Botanical Garden at 3.30 P. M.; Professor Underwood in the chair; 18 persons present.

The appointment of Professor Burgess to fill the vacancy on the membership committee was announced.

Dr. Britton presented a memorial on the life work of the late Mr. Cornelius Van Brunt, which by vote of the Club was ordered spread on the minutes and printed in TORREYA.†

The principal paper on the scientific program was by Mrs. Britton, entitled "Notes on further botanical Explorations in Cuba." The party, consisting of Dr. and Mrs. Britton and Mr. Percy Wilson, went to Cuba by way of Tampa, Florida, going direct to Matanzas, which point was reached on August 27, 1903. Extracts were read from her diary, giving an interesting account of the daily happenings during the exploration of the region about Matanzas, Cardenas and Sagua. Many photographs were shown illustrating the regions visited and specimens of some of

* See Lesq. Cret. Fl., *pl.* 30. *f.* 3. 1874; Tert. Fl., *pl.* 36. *f.* 12; *pl.* 37. *f.* 4, 5. 1878; Fl. Dak. Group, *pl.* 11. *f.* 4. 1892; Newb. Fl. Amboy Clays, *pl.* 29. *f.* 6, 7. 1896.

† See TORREYA, 3: 177. *Portrait.* 22 D 1903.